

**OPINION 1856*****Lycognathophis* Boulenger, 1893 (Reptilia, Serpentes): conserved**

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Reptilia; Serpentes; snakes; Seychelles; *Lycognathophis*.

**Ruling**

(1) Under the plenary powers the name *Scopelophis* Fitzinger, 1843 is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy.

(2) The name *Lycognathophis* Boulenger, 1893 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Psammodphis seychellensis* Schlegel, 1837, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

(3) The name *seychellensis* Schlegel, 1837, as published in the binomen *Psammodphis seychellensis* (specific name of the type species of *Lycognathophis* Boulenger, 1893), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

(4) The name *Scopelophis* Fitzinger, 1843, as suppressed in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

**History of Case 2877**

An application for the conservation of the generic name *Lycognathophis* Boulenger, 1893 was received from Prof Hobart M. Smith (*University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, U.S.A.*) and Dr Van Wallach (*Center for Vertebrate Studies, Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*) on 12 February 1993. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 51: 330–331 (December 1994). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

Comments in support from Prof Hidetoshi Ota (*University of the Ryukyus, Nishihara, Okinawa, Japan*), Prof Ronald A. Nussbaum (*Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A.*) and Prof Edmond V. Malnate (*Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.*) were published in BZN 52: 186 (June 1995). A note of support from Prof Edwin L. Bell (*Albright College, Reading, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.*), Dr A. Dale Belcher (*Albuquerque Biological Park, Albuquerque, New Mexico, U.S.A.*), Dr Donald G. Broadley (*Natural History Museum, Centenary Park, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe*), Dr Joseph T. Collins (*Natural History Museum, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, U.S.A.*) and Dr Raymond F. Laurent (*Fundación Lillo, Tucumán, Argentina*) was published at the same time.

A further comment in support from Prof Lauren E. Brown (*Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois, U.S.A.*) was published in BZN 52: 271 (September 1995).

**Decision of the Commission**

On 1 December 1995 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 51: 331. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 1996 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 23: Bayer, Bock, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Dupuis, Hahn, Halvorsen, Heppell, Holthuis, Kraus, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Štys, Trjapitzin  
Negative votes — 3: Bouchet, Kabata and Lehtinen.

Bouchet commented: 'Dowling (1990) and the application itself demonstrate that the name *Lycognathophis* Boulenger, 1893, although in current use, 'has appeared in relatively few publications'. Priority should apply'.

### Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

*Scopelophis* Fitzinger, 1843, *Systema Reptilium*. Fasciculus primus (Amblyglossae), p. 26.

*Lycognathophis* Boulenger, 1893, *Catalogue of the snakes in the British Museum (Natural History)*, vol. 1, p. 317.

*seychellensis*, *Psammodphis*, Schlegel, 1837, *Essai sur la physionomie des serpens*, vol. 1 (Partie générale), p. 155.